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# UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode No. 82

11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

OCTOBER 5, 1933

THURSDAY

ORCHESTRA:

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers --

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET.

ANNOUNCER: Up on the National Forest where Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are busily engaged guarding, protecting, and administering the forest resources, a period of drought has caused no end of anxiety. Day after day for several weeks a hot wind has blown steadily from the Southwest drawing the moisture out of the air and parching the vegetation until the very leaves rustle with a harsh, crackling sound. Day after day the Forest Rangers have anxiously watched the weather report as the readings of their psychrometers showed the humidity dropping lower and lower. These are anxious days for Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers, for they know from experience that under such conditions it will take only a spark from a carelessly discarded cigarette or a neglected camp fire to start a fire on the dry forest floor. They know only too well how these late summer fires spring from a tiny blaze into great conflagrations. And so today at the Pine Cone Ranger Station, Ranger Jim Robbins has directed his assistant Jerry Quick to "sit tight" at the Station, ready for any fire emergency, while he pays a visit to the camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps. As we tune in at the Pine Cone Ranger Station we find Mrs. Robbins just answering the telephone. Jerry is at work out in the tool shed. Here they are. --





BESS: (TALKING ON PHONE) Hello -- this is the Pine Cone Ranger Station. -- What? -- Oh, Bald Mountain Lookout. -- Yes Billy, what is it? -- Oh dear, just a minute till I get a pencil -- Go ahead. -- On your radial - 235? -- Yes, -- and Windy Peak's radial 67? -- All right. -- You say those lines crossed near the head of - of Clear Creek? Oh, Billy, that's a terrible place for a fire! -- Yes, Jim has gone to the Conservation Camp, but Jerry's here. We'll get right after it. Keep me posted when there's anything new to report, won't you Billy? -- Goodbye. (HANG UP) -- (CALLING, off) Oh, Jerry, -- Jerry - come quick) -- (TO HERSELF) - Oh what a terrible day for a fire! -- (RINGING TELEPHONE) -- Hello Central? - Say Central get me the Conservation Camp as quick as you can! Make it special, it's a fire call! -- Thank you, central, I know you will.

JERRY: (COMING IN BREATHLESSLY) What is it, Mrs. Robbins, a fire?

BESS: Yes, Jerry, a report from Billy on Bald Mountain. He says it just started up about five minutes ago, -- and already it's boiling up like a big mushroom!

JERRY: Where is it?

BESS: Bald Mountain 235, and Windy Peak Lookout 67.

JERRY: Just a minute till I triangulate that.

BESS: Billy says it's on the head of Clear Creek.

JERRY: Yes, -- they cross up here at the head of Clear Creek - up back of Big Scraggy Mountain. Gee, that's the worst place on the District for a fire! There ain't a road within 20 miles. - Golly, to get fire fighters in there, they've gotta walk miles, with their tools on their backs!



BESS: Oh dear, how could a fire ever get started in a place like that?

JERRY: Gosh, I dunno.

BESS: And at a time like this! Jim said this morning it's the worst fire weather he's seen in years.

JERRY: (EXCITEDLY) Say, I got it, Mrs. Robbins! Send the men in by airplane! There's a long park up there on the head of Clear Creek -- not far from the fire. I believe a plane could land there without any trouble at all.

BESS: Oh, Jerry, do you think so?! -- I've got a call in for Jim at the Conservation Camp. We'll ask him about it.

JERRY: (TALKING FAST) Fine! -- I'll grab the fire truck with the tools and start for the camp. You get in touch with Jim and tell him I'm coming. And call the Supervisor and ask him about an airplane. Tell him to have it meet me at the Conservation Camp. If the pilot can't land on the baseball diamond at the camp he can use Old Man Barlow's meadow. (GOING OFF) So long, Mrs. Robbins. (TELEPHONE RINGS)

BESS: (ANSWERING PHONE) Hello - hello - is this the Conservation Camp? I want Jim Robbins. Is he there? -- Yes, Ranger Jim Robbins. -- Well, send somebody after him just as quick as you can. Tell him it's a bad fire. Tell him that Jerry Quick is coming with the fire truck. Tell him I'm sending for an airplane. Tell him to call me up. Can you remember all that? -- All right, now hurry! (SOUND OF FIRE TRUCK SIREN OFF)

(FADEOUT)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)







(SOUND OF TRUCK MOTOR COMING UP)

JERRY: (SHOUTING) Hi, Jim, gosh I'm glad you're here. Have you heard from Mrs. Robbins?!

(SOUND OF MOTOR STOPS)

JIM: Yes, Jerry - I've talked to Bess and to Supervisor Ellsworth. He's arranged for that big tri-motor plane from Willow Glen.

JERRY: Good! Gee, that's fine!

JIM: It ought to be here any minute now. We're getting the boys mobilized, and all ready to go.

JERRY: Good!

JIM: I'm glad you brought up the truck, Jerry.

JERRY: We've got all the tools and everything else we need now. If that plane ever gets here. --

VOICE: (SHOUTS) There she comes!

JERRY: Sure enough, there she is, Jim!

(SOUND OF AIRPLANE)

JERRY: I wonder if he can land here.

JIM: Yes, he can make it all right. -- (SHOUTS) Hey! Keep those boys back there! Keep 'em lined up and out of the way!

(SOUND AIRPLANE COMING DOWN -- ENGINE CUTS OFF)

(BABEL OF VOICES, OFF)

JIM: (CALLS) Hello, pilot --

PILOT: (OFF) Hi, there

JIM: Well, you made good time. How many men can you carry?

PILOT: (UP) Ten.

JIM: All right. Jerry, you go with the first load to show him the way.



JERRY: Okay Jim!

JIM: How long will it take you to make the round trip,  
pardner? About 20 miles airline.

PILOT: About half an hour.

JIM: All right, we'll have your next load ready. (SHOUTS)  
Climb in you fellows! -- (BABEL OF VOICES, OFF) -- Jerry,  
got your portable radio?

JERRY: Yeah, it's in my knapsack.

JIM: Good! Set 'er up as soon as you reach the fire and report  
how she looks. I'll have the set on the fire truck tuned  
in to receive you.

JERRY: Okay, Jim.

PINKIE: (COMING UP -- TIMID VOICE) Say, Mr. Ranger, -- I aint never  
been up in no airplane. I -- I don't believe I'd better go.

(SEVERAL BOISTEROUS LAUGHS)

VOICES: What's the matter, Pinkie, are yuh scairt? -- you'd pay ten  
bucks for a ride like this back home.

VOICE: Come on, Pinkie, show 'em you can take it!

PINKIE: Awright, Mister, I'll go.

JIM: (HEARTILY) That's the stuff, kid, show 'em you can take  
it. -- Climb in. (LOUDER) There now, are you all ready?

JERRY: (SHOUTS, SLIGHTLY OFF) All ready -- let's go.

(ROAR OF AIRPLANE UP)

JIM: (SHOUTS) All right, Pilot, we'll be looking for you in  
half an hour.

(SOUND AIRPLANE TAKING OFF)

(CHEERS FROM THE BACKGROUND)

(FADEOUT)





(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF ROAR AND CRACKLING OF FRAMES - CHOPPING IN THE DISTANCE -  
MAN COUGHING)

VOICE: (SHOUTING, OFF) Water boy! Hey, water boy, give us a  
drink. - (CLOSER) Gosh! A man would choke to death waitin'  
for you to come with that water.

PINKIE: It aint good for yuh to drink too much water.

VOICE: Sez you. -- Here, fill the cup again.

PINKIE: Naw yuh don't! This water's to drink, -- not to wash your  
face in.

VOICE: (OFF) Hey, Pinkie. Where's at water? Give us a drink.

OTHER VOICES: Hey, water - water.

JIM: (COMING UP) Hi boys, where's your fireman?

1st VOICE: He just went up that way, Mr. Ranger - with that young  
ranger.

JIM: Who do you mean, Jerry Quick?

1st VOICE: Yeah, that's the guy.

JIM: Thanks - You're digging that trail right down to bare soil,  
aren't you? Remember, no roots or sticks left in 'er.

1st VOICE: You bet. There aint no fire going to cross this trail -  
not while I'm here. But, gee, can't yuh get that wind  
to turn the smoke back, and give us a break?

JIM: We've gotta take it as we find it, boys.

2nd VOICE: If you see that water boy send him back here, will yuh?

JIM: (MOVING OFF) ( WITH BACKGROUND OF CHOPPING, DIGGING,  
SHOUTING, WIND AND FIRE) All right son, he'll be back in  
a few minutes. Be sure you hold that fire line.

(FADEOUT)

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JIM: (FADE-IN) (SHOUTS) Hello there! Is that you, Jerry?

JERRY: (OFF) (COUGHING) Hi, Jim, (Coming up) - I've just been showing Joe here where to run his fire line. - Gosh! That smoke's so bad I can hardly breathe. (COUGHS)

JIM: Well, your location seems to be all right if we can get the line in before the fire runs over us. (LOUDER) Joe ... bring up part of your crew from the lower slope. We've got to scratch a line in here quick so we can back-fire. - Jerry - we can't lose this line.

JERRY: We'll do our best, Jim. You know that.

JIM: Sure, Jerry, I know. I'll go find some men to throw in here. We've got to hold this spot, Jerry.

JERRY: We'll hold 'er, Jim. -- (SHOUTING) Hey, Joe, hurry up with those men.

(SOUND OF DIGGING, CHOPPING, INCREASES)

JERRY: (SHOUTS) Here - start digging right here! Hey, four or five of you fellows give me a hand on this log! - Heave it down the hill. -- Now altogether, yo-heave! yo-heave! (SOUND OF CRACKING TIMBER, CHOPPING, SHOUTING)

VOICE: (CALLING, OFF) Hey! - Help - she's jumped the line!

JERRY: (SHOUTS) Jump on that spot fire! Tramp it out before it gets started! (SOUND OF MORE SHOUTING AND CHOPPING, CRACKLING OF FLAMES)

2nd VOICE: (SHOUTING, OFF) We've gotta have more men! We can't hold 'er here, Jerry!

JERRY: (SHOUTS) Stay with it, Joe! -- don't give up! I'll see if I can get some more men.



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(SOUND OF REPEATED BLASTS OF POLICE WHISTLE)

3rd VOICE: (WEAKLY, CHOKING) Say, Mister, I've gotta get out of here.

I can't stand it no longer!

JERRY: That's all right, buddy, you go down the hill till you get out of the smoke. Lie down on the ground till you get your breath - see? - and then come back. We're going to need you later.

JIM: (COMING UP) How's she going, Jerry?

JERRY: (COUGHING) We can't hold her without more help, Jim.

These boys are all in.

JIM: I've got twenty fresh men. They'll be here in a minute.

2nd VOICE: (IN THE DISTANCE) Hey -- help! -- She's getting away!

(ROAR AND CRACKLE OF FIRE, UP)

(THEN REPEATED BLASTS OF POLICE WHISTLE, MEN SHOUTING,  
CHOPPING, CONFUSION)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(FADE-IN WITH BABEL OF VOICES)

1st VOICE: Hey, got any more of that coffee over there?

PINKIE: Yeh. A whole bucket full.

1st FIRE

FIGHTER: Gimme some more of those beans! -- I aint never been so hungry in my life.

2nd FIRE

FIGHTER: Say, did you see Pinkie do the hand spring when the fire drove the rattle snakes out on the trail? (SEVERAL LAUGH)

THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
IN SENATE  
JANUARY 11, 1894.  
REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE  
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION  
PASSED BY THE SENATE  
MAY 1, 1893.  
ALBANY:  
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO. PRINTERS.  
1894.

3rd FIRE

FIGHTER: Yeh. He thought he was an airplane. Trying to take off.

PINKIE: Oh, is zat so? I guess you'd take off too if you stepped on a rattle snake.

2nd FIRE

FIGHTER: Hey, Pinkie, are you going to walk home or hitch hike?

PINKIE: Aw, nertz to you, guy. I'm going to pilot the plane.  
The guy said I could.

(DERISIVE LAUGHTER)

3rd FIRE

FIGHTER: Hey, when do we go back to camp, Mister Ranger?

JIM: (COMING UP, CHUCKLING) All depends on the weather, boys.  
We're going to patrol this fire day and night till she's out.

JERRY: (COMING UP) Well, Jim. The fire line's looking great.  
I believe we've got her beat!

JIM: . Yep, Jerry, it looks pretty good this morning. -- But we can't take any chances. We're going to divide the men into three shifts, and keep a constant patrol till the fire's out. -- This is going to be another one of those fires that didn't get away.

JERRY: (WITH EMPHASIS) You've said it, Jim. We've got 'er corralled, and we'll never let 'er go.

(FADEOUT)





ANNOUNCER: Well, another fire that started out to reduce a beautiful green forest to ashes,--but snappy action by Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers, and the boys of the Civilian Conservation Corps, brought the fire under control. And we're hoping the weather will do its part by sending rain to make the forest safe once more. -- Constant vigilance, quick action, hard work, and care with fire in the forests are necessary to keep them green and growing. We can help Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers by never throwing away burning tobacco, never leaving a campfire without putting it out. And don't discard bottles or glass ware in the woods. They have been known to act as burning-glasses to start fires by the heat of the sun's rays. Always be careful with fire in the forests, folks, and do your part to protect them.

This program comes to you as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

1b-9:35 A.M.  
Oct. 3, 1933

